

CLAIMS:

1. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel,
the discharge vessel enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space
provided with a filling of mercury and a rare gas,
the discharge vessel comprising means for maintaining an electric discharge in
5 the discharge space,
a portion of the surface of the discharge vessel facing the discharge space
being provided with a protective layer,
characterized in that
the protective layer comprises aluminum oxide or yttrium oxide and further
10 comprises a borate and/or a phosphate of an alkaline earth metal and/or of scandium, yttrium,
or a further rare earth metal.
2. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that the alkaline earth metal is calcium, strontium, and/or barium.
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3. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that the further rare earth metal is lanthanum, cerium, and/or gadolinium.
4. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3,
20 characterized in that the aluminum oxide comprises particles with an effective particle size d_p
not exceeding 3 μm , preferably in a range of $0.1 \leq d_p \leq 0.8 \mu\text{m}$.
5. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3,
characterized in that the protective layer comprises an alkaline earth borate, and in that the
25 thickness of the protective layer is in a range from 0.1 to 50 μm .
6. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 5,
characterized in that the protective layer comprises SrB_4O_7 .

7. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the thickness of the protective layer is in a range from 1 to 20 μm .

8. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that the discharge vessel comprises at least one stem, said stem being provided with the protective layer.

9. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that the discharge vessel is made from a glass comprising silicon dioxide and sodium oxide, with the glass composition comprising the following essential constituents, given in percentages by weight:

60-80 % SiO_2 ,

10-20 % Na_2O .

10. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the glass composition comprises the following constituents:

70-75 % SiO_2 ,

15-18 % Na_2O ,

0.25-2 % K_2O by weight.

11. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, 2, or 3, characterized in that a side of the protective layer facing the discharge space is provided with a luminescent layer of a luminescent material.

12. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the luminescent layer is provided with an additional protective layer.

13. A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the luminescent material comprises a mixture of green-luminescing, terbium-activated cerium-magnesium aluminate, blue-luminescing barium-magnesium aluminate activated by bivalent europium, and red-luminescing yttrium oxide activated by trivalent europium.